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great question, and effect such a change of opinion as shall supersede the sword as the arbiter of national disputes by the introduction of substitutes far better for all purposes of either justice or security. These substitutes are gradually coming into use, and promise in time to prevent most of the wars that might otherwise arise.

On this point the last year has witnessed some marked proofs of progress. Negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and several congresses of leading Powers in Europe, have succeeded in keeping peace among the principal nations of Christendom. Such peaceful expedients, these appeals to reason instead of brute force or blind chance, are becoming more and more frequent, and promise in time to supersede in most cases a resort to the sword. It is a pregnant sign of the times, and full of hope for our cause. Let this process of improvement go on; and we may well hope that the whole war-system, so expensive and perilous, will come at length to be regarded as a huge, intolerable superfluity, and will gradually melt away into a peaceful, legitimate police for insuring domestic quiet and order.

On every side we see hopeful indications. There is the steady, unfaltering, effective energy of our co-workers in England, whose influence more or less pervades the world. There is the rise of similar organizations on the Continent of Europe, full of zeal, buoyant with hope, and already setting in motion influences that must, if continued, reach and leaven the mass of minds there, and eventually do away the whole war-system of the Old World. Vast and powerful as this system is, it all rests on public opinion; and a thorough, permanent change of this opinion must in time sweep it entirely and forever from every Christian land. It cannot, indeed, be done at once, though it may be much sooner than we expect; but the friends of peace, with God and all the great interests of humanity on their side, are putting in operation instrumentalities destined with moral certainty to mitigate the enormous evils of war, and finally bring the war-system itself to a perpetual end.

OUR OPERATIONS. — Our Society is trying in its sphere to do its part in this great work. During the late rebellion, and the political conflicts inevitably consequent on its close, we could hope to do little more than keep itself alive; but we hoped that, when the public mind became relaxed from this extreme tension, it would open itself more than ever to the claims of our cause, and enable us to start a larger and more hopeful system of operations. We are not entirely disappointed. We have started anew on a larger scale of operations. During the past year we have issued more publications, our periodical alone excepted, than we had for ten years before. Of our periodical we have increased its issues nearly, if not quite five-fold. Besides some minor publications, we have stereotyped three works of great value to our cause — the admirable Essay of William Ladd on a *Congress of Nations*, the ablest of all his many writings on Peace; and two volumes from the learned and eloquent pen of Charles Sumner that had already done effective service for our cause. By thus consenting to let these popular and powerful works be stereotyped as perpetual

advocates of our cause, he lends anew the sanction of his great name to the doctrine and policy of peace, and renders an important service to the cause of truth and humanity through the world.

WESTERN DEPARTMENT. — Along with these issues of the press, we have largely increased our efforts in other directions. We have employed more agents than ever before. We have constituted a Western Department of our Society, and have been fortunate in securing as our Western Secretary a man singularly qualified for the service, Rev. AMASA LORD, well known and highly esteemed throughout the West by his more than twenty years of successful labors in a kindred enterprise. His hearty interest in our cause, and his energy, enterprise, and long familiarity with the broad field open before him there, may well justify our hope of important results from his labors. He makes Chicago the centre of his operations; and already he has enlisted on that field, besides local agents for the circulation of our periodical and other publications, no less than twenty-five lecturers and colporteurs acting under him. In addition to these, we have at the last appointed several Lecturing Agents; and by such agencies we hope in time to keep this great question constantly before the people all over the land.

USE OF THE PRESS. — Along with the living voice, our cause has from the first made large use of the press. Its pioneer in this country, Dr. Noah Worcester, himself addressed the public only in this way, and our Society, following his example, has done more for our cause through the press than by any other single agency. For forty years it has sustained a periodical devoted to its advocacy; and we now send it gratuitously to nearly a thousand leading newspapers from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, to some 350 Young Men's Christian Associations, to all our higher Seminaries of Learning, and to select names of wide and effective influence in different parts of the land.

We know well that there is a strange apathy on this momentous theme even among men of culture, benevolence and piety; but we are fully determined that leading minds in the community shall have the means of examining for themselves the claims of this cause. Few among such men now deny its importance; and we hope, by the agencies and influences we set at work, to clinch its claims so strongly on the heart and conscience of all communities professing a religion of peace, that they cannot continue their slumbers on a subject so vital to the highest welfare of our race for time and eternity.

FAVORABLE OMENS AT HOME. — *Our Indian Policy.* — Our cause here, though slow still, and much obstructed, is nevertheless making a sure and hopeful progress. Of this we find some proof in the new policy adopted some time ago by our Congress, and now being carried out by our Executive with fair prospects of success. Our Indian Department, so long a shame and curse to our country, a Botany Bay of political rascalities, is now in a fair way to be rescued from its cruel and shameless perversions. The